

in the Cloakroom. As a father, I know how hard it is to get a couple of teenagers to be responsible and do good work. I commend Tim's patience in handling the hundreds of teens who rotate through the Cloakroom each summer and school year.

A native of Lackawanna, New York, Tim came to Washington in 1976 and worked first as a Doorkeeper, guarding the privacy of Members and keeping the floor of this House secure. His talents were recognized and in 1982 he transferred to the House Sergeant at Arms where he continued his efforts to keep this House running in an efficient and productive manner. In 1995, Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill appointed him to his current position of Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom.

Tim, you will be sorely missed but I know that you and your wife Colleen are looking forward to a life of leisure in North Carolina. I know you will enjoy having the time to play all the golf you want. I played golf on your golf team at Andrews and had a barrel of fun. I will always remember your friendship! Good luck and thank you for all you have done for this institution.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tim Friedman on his retirement after 30 years of service to the House of Representatives.

Tim began his career on Capitol Hill on July 19, 1976, as a doorkeeper under the Hon. James T. Molloy. In 1982, he began to work for the office of the House Sergeant at Arms as an assistant to the Hon. Jack Russ. Recognizing Tim's talents, knowledge, and understanding of the intricacies of the House, he was appointed as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom in 1985. Tim's friendly manner and his wealth of experience has been an outstanding asset to the members of the Democratic Caucus.

I sincerely thank Tim for the assistance he has given me and for his dedicated service to the House of Representatives. I wish him and his wife Colleen all the best for their future. He will be truly missed by all.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Tim Friedman upon his retirement from the House Democratic Cloakroom. For the past 30 years Tim Friedman has served with utmost distinction.

After moving from Lackawanna, NY, Tim arrived in Washington, DC, in 1976 to begin his career in the House of Representatives. He first served for the Hon. Dan Rostenkowski before becoming a Doorkeeper under the Hon. James T. Molloy from 1976 to 1982. In 1982, Tim moved to the office of the House Sergeant at Arms before being appointed as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom in 1985 by the Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Speaker of the House.

Since I came to Congress in 1988, I have gotten to know Tim Friedman quite well. He is an upstanding man with strong character and high principles. I am pleased to have worked with him.

In times of retirement, I am reminded of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, "The reward for a thing well done is to have done it." Not only should Tim feel rewarded, but all of us who have benefited from his long and successful 30 year career, an accomplishment for which he deserves to be proud.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in offering congratulations and gratitude for

Tim's long and successful career in the House of Representatives. I wish him well and hope he continues to achieve happiness, health and success in his future endeavors.

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tim Friedman on his retirement from the House of Representatives and the House Democratic Cloakroom.

Mr. Friedman, a native of Lackawanna, NY, arrived in Washington, DC, in 1976 and started his career in the House of Representatives on July 19, 1976 under the patronage of Hon. Dan Rostenkowski. He worked as a Doorkeeper under Hon. James T. Molloy from 1976 to 1982 then transferred to the office of the House Sergeant at Arms and worked as an assistant to the Hon. Jack Russ. In 1985, Mr. Friedman became the Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom. His contributions are immeasurable.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my sincere congratulations to Tim Friedman. I wish Mr. Friedman and his wife, Colleen, a relaxing retirement filled with many rounds of golf. Thank you for your service to the House of Representatives, and to our Nation.

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker it is with great pleasure that I rise today to bid farewell to Mr. Tim Friedman, a dear, trusted friend, who will retire after 30 years of service to his country.

A native of Lackawanna, NY, Tim arrived in Washington in 1976, and started his career in the House of Representatives on July 19, 1976, under the patronage of the Hon. Dan Rostenkowski. From 1976 to 1982 he worked as a Doorkeeper under the Hon. James T. Molloy and in 1982, he transferred to the office of the House Sergeant at Arms and worked as an assistant to the Hon. Jack Russ. In 1985 Tim was appointed as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom by the Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill—Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the Democratic Cloak Room is a place of great importance to all House Democrats. It is a place where we not only receive helpful information on things such as bill language and the floor schedule, but where we can take solace from the sometimes contentious debate on the House floor.

Needless to say, it takes a special individual to contend with the wide range of interesting personalities that make up the Democratic Caucus. Tim has handled the job without breaking a sweat. Although, I am quite sure he often tires of Member after Member asking the same question—"when will we be done," he never makes it known. He is always ready to provide Members with important information while maintaining his affable disposition.

Perhaps what impresses me the most about Tim is his unwavering loyalty. An avid Yankee fan, Tim openly professes allegiance to his team despite the taunts of his fellow cloak room colleagues. Barry, a passionate Red Sox fan and Bob, an Orioles/Nationals fan, frequently hurl insults at Tim for his devotion to the Bronx Bombers. However, like a true fan, he ignores their scoffs and simply reminds them of Yankee dominance. As a Yankee fan and the team's Congressional Representative, I appreciate Tim's steadfastness in the face of brutal opposition. His dogged support of my hometown team has strengthened our bond over the years.

Mr. Speaker, on a more serious note, Tim is a dedicated, hardworking and reliable individual who will be truly missed by all who had

the pleasure of working with him. I wish him well on his retirement and ask that my colleagues join me in bidding him farewell.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Tim Friedman for his 30 years of dedicated service to the House of Representatives.

Tim began his career on July 19, 1976, working as a Doorkeeper to the House Chamber under the Hon. James T. Molloy. After 6 years of helping to oversee admission to the House floor and galleries, Tim went on to work as an assistant to the Hon. Jack Russ in the House Sergeant at Arms office and eventually as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom. Since my freshman term in Congress, his has always been a friendly face and a trusted source of information about what is happening on the House floor. Tim has been an active and integral part of the last 16 sessions of Congress, and he deserves the highest respect and recognition.

Outside of work, Tim spends most of his time with his lovely wife Colleen and out on the golf course. I can speak for the rest of my colleagues when I say that we all look forward to hearing about his first hole-in-one.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Tim Friedman on his retirement after a remarkable career. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication to our country, and I am sad to lose such an outstanding public servant and close friend.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS ACT OF 2005

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor tonight to express my strong support for S. 203, the National Heritage Areas Act of 2005. This legislation was debated earlier in this day, and amongst its many provisions the bill contains my legislation, H.R. 1820, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act Amendments of 2005.

S. 203 reauthorizes the Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor to receive appropriations and transfers management entity status from the Federal I&M Commission to the not-for-profit Canal Corridor Association. I would like to commend Chairman POMBO and the House Committee on Resources for their hard work on this important piece of legislation which has previously passed the House twice before.

The I&M Canal, the Illinois and Michigan Canal, changed the Nation in 1848 when it opened its first shipping

route between New York and New Orleans, designating Chicago as the Nation's greatest inland port at that time. While the canal eventually fell into disuse due to new transportation methods and routes, in 1982, business and industry leaders founded the Canal Corridor Association to help revitalize the I&M Canal region, and in doing so created a national model for regional partnership, conservation, and renewal.

I am proud to say that the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor was America's first charter national heritage area, being created by an act of Congress in 1984, thanks to the efforts of former Congressman Tom Corcoran and former Senator Chuck Percy. For 20 years now, the Federal I&M Commission has worked to carry out the mission of the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor. Its efforts have been particularly successful during the past 5 years that Phyllis Ellin has provided strong leadership as the executive director of the commission.

Since 1984, the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor has increasingly become an engine of economic growth in communities up and down the length of the corridor, primarily through an increase in tourism, but also in the use of the corridor for recreational purposes.

I decided to move forward with this legislation after consulting with local officials and those most interested and involved in preserving the heritage of the I&M Canal. This private sector approach contained within my legislation offers more advantages to handle the increased workload brought on by the recent success of the canal and interest in heritage tourism.

As a result, S. 203 designates the Canal Corridor Association as the new management entity of the I&M Canal Heritage Corridor. The CCA seeks to enhance economic vitality by raising awareness of and expanding the parks, trails, landscapes and historic sites that make the I&M Canal region a special place. They have also successfully implemented educational programs and improved the cultural, environmental, historic, and tourism resources that the Canal Corridor offers.

Under the leadership of the Canal Corridor Association, the I&M Canal Reauthorization will continue to successfully educate citizens of the nationally historical importance of the I&M Canal and to play a pivotal role in the continued economic development of our home region. Through the Canal Corridor Association's governance, we will now be able to better enlist private support for the Canal Corridor and promote tourism in our home region.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman POMBO and the entire Resources Committee for making sure this important legislation passes before we break for the August district work period. I particularly want to thank Speaker HASTERT for his assistance and leadership in this issue as well as Chairman CRAIG THOMAS in the Senate for moving forward with this critical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

U.S. OCCUPATION OF IRAQ

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today is the 162nd time that I have come to the floor during Special Orders to discuss the U.S. role in Iraq. Unfortunately, very little has changed on the ground in Iraq over the course of these last 3 years and 162 speeches. Unfortunately, also, official visits to the region by our administration and those who represent the United States of America must still be in secret because the area is so very, very violent.

Our troops increasingly face snipers, roadside attacks, ambushes, and improvised explosive devices, IEDs. Bombings continue to kill and wound nearly 100 Iraq civilians daily, and the country has slid into a civil war. One thing that has changed is this, the United States is now playing the role of occupier.

President Bush claimed that the U.S. would go into the Iraq conflict as a liberator. These days, the more accurate statement is that the United States is an occupier. Our brave men and women of the Armed Forces have not been trained or equipped for this very mission. They are doing the very best they can under the circumstances, but their civilian superiors have let them down. Right now, the best way to support our troops is to set forth a plan to bring them home.

In light of all of this, tomorrow several of my colleagues and I will introduce a bill that will revoke the President's Iraqi war powers. This legislation, the Iraq War Power Repeal Act of 2006, will return the war powers for Iraq back to Congress, back where our Founding Fathers intended.

According to the President, all major war combat was completed just 6 months after Congress authorized the use of force. In fact, he said this while standing aboard an aircraft carrier before a banner reading "Mission Accomplished." Therefore, the United States has no longer been at war since that statement of his 6 months into the war, but rather carrying out an occupation with absolutely no end in sight. The American and the Iraqi people want the United States troops out of Iraq; they want them home where they belong.

Over the objections of many House and Senate Members 3½ years ago, the House voted to support the war in Iraq. We did not vote to support an occupa-

tion in Iraq. That is why our goal tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, is to have the congressional leadership allow an up-or-down vote on the occupation. I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor the Iraq War Powers Repeal Act of 2006 to end this madness once and for all, to stand up for our troops, to bring them home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHAYS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PROTECTION AND EVACUATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of turn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the Nation has been focused on the war declared by Hezbollah against Israel this past week. And while most of the media focused on stories of the conflict in Israel or Lebanon, they have not covered an aspect of the story critical to our fellow citizens, the protection and evacuation of American citizens from this conflict.

On the day that Hezbollah started this war, we estimated that there were over 20,000 Americans in Lebanon.

□ 2000

I want to first commend our ambassador in Lebanon and the U.S. embassy team in Beirut for rapidly assembling the plans and data on the Americans to be saved. The U.S. Government regularly plans and sometimes executes what is called a noncombatant evacuation operation, or NEO in Pentagon parlance, to rescue Americans abroad. The scale of the Lebanese NEO was very, very large. This operation, assembled on very short notice, responded remarkably to a rapidly changing, massive movement of our fellow citizens.

Some of the unsung heroes of the Lebanon NEO are the men and women of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. I want to give special thanks to the crews of the USS *Nashville*, the USS *Trenton*, and the USS *Whidbey Island*. Along with the merchant vessel *Orient*, the crews of these U.S. navy vessels rescued thousands of Americans from Lebanon over the last several days. The crews of these ships were backed by U.S. Marines flying helicopters to save the people in most urgent need.

I also want to thank the men and women of the U.S. Transportation Command who arranged military airlifts for Americans living in Cyprus, and now Turkey, to complete their trips home to the U.S.A.